

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 109

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to stem cell research.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 6, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, Ortiz. Stem cell research.

This measure would memorialize Congress and the President of the United States to take specified actions regarding stem cell research and to prohibit human cloning.

WHEREAS, An estimated 128 million Americans suffer from the crippling economic and psychological burden of chronic, degenerative, and acute diseases, including diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, Chronic, degenerative, and acute diseases result in extreme human loss and suffering for those who suffer from them and their families and caregivers, and result in hundreds of billions of dollars annually in medical treatment and lost productivity costs; and

WHEREAS, Stem cell research offers immense promise for developing new medical therapies for these debilitating diseases and a critical means to explore fundamental questions of biology and could lead to improved treatments and potential cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord injuries, burns, cancer, heart disease, and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, The United States has historically taken a leading role in funding biomedical research and has been a haven for open scientific inquiry and technological innovation, and, as a result, is the preeminent world leader in biomedicine and biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, On August 9, 2001, the President adopted a policy that restricts federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to a limited number of embryonic stem cell lines that were in existence as of that time, and subsequent research has found those existing stem cell lines to be significantly limited in their ability to support stem cell research; and

WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives has twice passed legislation to prohibit some forms of stem cell research, but voted on May 24, 2005, to allow federal funding for stem cell research using excess embryos from fertility clinics; and

WHEREAS, California voters approved Proposition 71 in November 2004, which will provide \$3 billion over 10 years for stem cell research in California; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature has enacted legislation declaring that research involving the derivation and use of human stem cells, human embryonic germ cells, and human adult stem cells from any source, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation, shall be permitted in California, calling for the development of ethical guidelines for stem cell research, and prohibiting human cloning; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the National Academy of Sciences issued guidelines for conducting human embryonic stem cell research in an ethical and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, Similar guidelines are being developed by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the State Department of Health Services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby memorializes Congress and the President of the United States to: (1) lift restrictions on federal funding for stem cell research; (2) not impair the ability of researchers to conduct stem cell research applications that hold promise for developing therapies for treating and curing chronic diseases; (3) develop ethical guidelines for federally funded stem cell research; and (4) prohibit human cloning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.